Delhi and cities of Northern Region, it has been decided to instal CAT III ILS at the main runway of Delhi Airport and CAT II ILS at Lucknow, Jammu and Amritsar airports.

Contingency plan to meet strikes by Air Traffic Controllers

2185. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any contingency plans to cope up with the situation of regular strikes and agitations by the Air Traffic Controllers;

(b) whether Government have taken any stringent action against the striking Air Traffic Controllers who are holding the public and the organisation to ransom by resorting to 'tactics of go-slow and disruptions; and

(c) whether Government have formulated any plan to avoid future agitations and disruptions by these ATCs'?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A notification under the Haryana Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1974 as extended to the National Capital Territory of Delhi has been published in the Gazette on 16-02-1999 declaring air traffic services as essential services. A notification has also been issued authorising certain officers the power of arrest, investigation and prosecution under the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Civil Aviation Act, 1982 as amended from time to time. Airports Authority of India has approached the High Court of Delhi for initiating contempt proceedings against the Air Traffic Controllers' Guild (ATCG) and restraining that body from resorting to go-slow agitation, thereby disrupting the flight schedules which cause immense hardship to the travelling public. ATCG has given an asssurance to the Delhi High Court that there shall be no disruption of flight schedules. AAI has taken strict disciplinary action by dismissing six delinquent air traffic controllers under its Employees Conduct Discipline and Appeal Regulations. This entire matter is receiving the close attention of the Government.

Recruitment of Trainee Pilots in Air India

2186. SHRI JAGDAMBI MANDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any examination/interview was conducted for the posts of trainee pilots in Air India reserved for SC/ST and OBC on the basis of advertisement published in November, 1998;

(b) if so, the number of candidates selected and appointed;

(c) if not, the reassons for the delay in issuing the letters of appointment; and

(d) by what time the same will be issued?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Air India did not issue any advertisement in November, 1998 for the examination/ interview for the posts of trainee pilots reserved for SC/ST and OBC.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Replacement of non-working X-ray machine at Imphal Airport

2187. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the X-ray machine installed at the Imphal Airport is not working; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken up to replace it and when?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The X-Ray machine at Imphal

airport is an old one. Though, it is working at present it is likely to be replaced by Augusst, 1999.

Subsidy to Gujarat Flying Club

2188. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been the policy of Government to encourage flying among the youth; and

(b) what has been the Central subsidy to the Gujarat Flying Club in Ahmedabad during the last 5 years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amount of Central subvention paid to the Ahmedabad Gliding and Flying Club during the last five years is as under:—

Year	Amount of subvention (Rupees in lakhs)
1993-94	0.93
1994-95	0.85
1995-96	1.66
1996-97	0.77
1997-98	0.58

Revision of civil aviation policy

2189. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning a near-complete turn-around in its Civil Aviation policy to allow foreign airlines and aviation companies not only to take up an equity stake in domestic airlines but also to invest in airports on a build-own-operate (BOO) basis;

(b) if so, the broad parameters of the proposals under consideration; and

(c) the time-frame by which the new policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) In accordance with the existing policy on domestic air transport services sector, 100% Non-Resident Indian (NRI)/Overseas Corporate Body (OCB) and 40% foreign equity participation is permissible in the domestic air transport services sector. However, equity from foreign airline, directly or indirectly, is prohibited.

"Policy on airport Infrastrcture" provides for foreign equity participation upto 74% with automatic approvals and upto 100% with special permission. It has been decided to corporatise existing airports at Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Calcutta and the proposed new airport at Bangalore.

The Airports Authority of India is in the process of appointing Financial and Legal Consultants who will advise on the various aspects of corporatisation.

Joint Board of Directors for Indian Airlines and Air India

2190. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Joint Board of Directors for Indian Airlines and Air India was discussed by Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any show cause notice was issued to the Board of Directors of Indian Airlines and AI; and

(d) the impact created on the working of the airlines due to this action of Government?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (d) In order to facilitate focused attention on the specific issues to be tackled by the two airlines individually and with a view to send the right signals to potential investors in the restructuring/disinvestment process envisaged, the Government have, after giving the matter a deep thought, decided on the constitution of